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ABSTRACT

This publication presents a series of charts, designed for quick reference, which describe the status of alternative teacher certification routes in each of the 50 states. The charts were prepared in response to an increasing number of inquiries from educators, policy makers, and the public. Information was gathered by telephone surveys of state departments of education in every state. The charts provide the following information: (1) nontraditional ways in which teachers are entering classrooms; (2) clarification of requirements for alternative certification; (3) the filling of teaching positions in the critical needs areas of science, mathematics, or foreign languages (in most cases emergency certification is granted on a temporary basis); and (4) requirements for clinical experience and additional classroom requirements for certification. In order to assist in national trend analysis, a summary of state data is included which provides information with respect to states that allow emergency certification for shortage areas, require clinical experience, or have evaluated their alternative routes for teacher certification. (LL)

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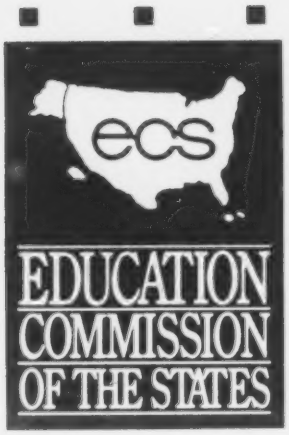

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Alternative Routes for Teacher Certification

November 1990

Education Commission of the States
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INTRODUCTION

The following charts present the status of alternative teacher certification routes in all 50 states. They were prepared by the Education Commission of the States (ECS) in response to the increased inquiries from educators, policy makers and the public.

Other surveys have been conducted on alternative certification[1]. This survey updates the public on changes in the non-traditional ways teachers are entering the classroom and clarifies requirements for alternative certification. The attached charts are designed for quick reference.

Although the charts are designed for quick reference, several issues require further explanation. First, some states created alternative certification routes to fill teaching positions in "critical needs" areas only. These areas are in science, mathematics or foreign languages. In most cases, emergency certification is granted on a temporary basis, although some states include options for permanent certification in their legislation.

Second, the charts provide information about requirements for clinical experience and additional classroom requirements for certification. For example, some states require a candidate to perform supervised teaching hours, sometimes called clinical experience, before certification is granted. In these states, certification depends on successful completion of a specified number of hours teaching in a classroom while being evaluated by a traditionally certified teacher. Other states require the candidate to return to an accredited college or

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[1]C. Emily Feistritzer. Alternative Teacher Certification: A State-By-State Analysis 1990. (Washington, D.C: National Center for Education Information, 1990).
Teacher Education Policy in the States: A 50-State Survey of Legislative and Administrative Actions. (Washington, D.C.: American Association of Colleges of Teacher Education, 1990).

university to attend various education classes. In addition, some states require candidates to complete both student teaching hours and to return to the college campus.

Third, a summary of state data is included. It provides information such as: how many states allow emergency certification for shortage areas, require clinical experience or have evaluated their alternative routes for teacher certification. This information will help the reader analyze nationwide trends.

Those interested must be cognizant of changes in state policy regarding alternative teacher certification. Many requirements change from one legislative session to another. Although specific requirements may change, shortages of teachers in certain subject areas mean alternative routes are likely to be available for quite some time.

The information presented here was gathered through telephone surveys of state departments of education in every state. ECS staff memebers Melodye Bush, Andrea Paolino and Kathy Christie conducted the surveys and prepared the charts.

Alternate Routes
for
Teacher Certification

State	Begun	Bachelor's	Minimum Requirements	Back to Campus	Clinical Experience	Evaluated	No. of Partic.
Alabama	1986	yes	* Complete remaining ed. courses in school of education of choice	yes	unknown	yes	unknown
Alaska	No Provisons						
Arizona	unknown	yes	* 30 semester hours in subject for 1 yr. non-renew. cert. * Pass proficiency exam * One year teacher training program	yes	yes - 10 weeks under eval. team plus 20 wks.	no	unknown
Arkansas	1988	yes	* GPA 2.75 or 3.0 in last 60 hrs. of degree work * 3.0 GPA in major * Written work history & 3 character references * Passing score on NTE specialty area test * Completion of several "weekend intensive" training sessions with trained mentor	no	yes	no	150/1988
California Plan 1	1983	yes	* Pass state certification test * Participate in training program * 6 semester units of coursework OR 120 hrs. preservice training under a traditionally-certified teacher	yes	yes	no	unknown
California Plan 2	1988	yes	* Pass state basic skills certification test * Either pass subject-area competency exam or complete coursework in the subject (or complete 9 sem. hrs. upper div. or graduate work * As of 1/1/90, must attend curric. and instruction techniques orientation and teach with guidance of certificated employee who has 4 yrs. teaching exper.	to renew, must prove ongoing training	yes	no	unknown
Colorado	unknown	no	* 5 or more yrs. of successful teaching (nonpublic or public elem. or secondary) * Recommendation by supervisor and 75th percentile NTE profession section OR supervised teaching, 100 hrs. * Complete min. of 6 semester hrs. appropriate to certificate sought within a 5 yr. period preceding date of application * Pass selected tests in written & oral English & math	no	yes	yes	30-50/year

State	Begun	Bachelor's	Minimum Requirements	Back to Campus	Clinical Experience	Evaluated	No. of Partic.
Connecticut	1986	yes	BA/BS in field close to intended teaching field GPA of 3.0 or 24 hrs. graduate credit of 3.0 or better 1000 SAT score (combined) with no less than 400 in math or language Experience working with children First 2 yrs. - participate in beginning educator support & training program (BEST) 3-8 yrs. to complete 30 credit hrs. beyond BA for Professional Educator certificate	yes (for prof. ed. cert.)	yes - in-class observation during BEST program	no	unknown
Delaware	No Provisions						
Florida	unknown	yes	Major in subject area 2.75 GPA Passing score on FL teacher certification exam and passing score on subject matter Completion of modified beginning teacher program for first half of school year Successful completion of beginning teacher program in 2nd half of year	no	yes	yes	unknown
Georgia Plan 1 (for critical shortage fields)	unknown	yes	Only for science, math & foreign languages (provisional certificate) Meet content hr. reqmts. in science, math or for. lang. 2.5 GPA 5 qtr. hrs. in human development 5 qtr. hrs. in special ed. 10 qtr. hrs. in curriculum 15 qtr. hrs. in supervised classroom	yes	yes	no	unknown
Georgia Plan 2 (5th yr. certification)	unknown	yes	Meet content reqmts. for teaching field with a total # of qtr. hrs. in content equivalent to a combination of a bachelor's and master's level Obtain satisfactory assessments on appropriate teacher cert. test & on-the-job performance Special education course	yes	yes	no	unknown
Georgia Plan 3 (Temp. provisional alt. certificate)	unknown	yes	Holds or has held certificate from another state Meet min. reqmts. in content area 2.5 GPA Certificate must be requested by a state employer indicating is applicant is best candidate available Must take 10 qtr. hrs./yr. toward reqmts. for a state prof. certificate (incl. on-the-job assessment)	yes	yes	no	unknown

State	Begun	Bachelor's	Minimum Requirements	Back to Campus	Clinical Experience	Evaluated	No. of Partic.
Hawaii	unknown	yes	* Complete a post-baccalaureate program * Meet NTE reqmts. * Successfully complete on-the-job practicum	yes	yes	no	unknown
Idaho (in process)	sometime 1990	yes	* Certificate to teach is applicable to high school level only * 9 hrs. of courses in education in each of 2 summers * 4 semester pd. internship in a school	yes	yes	N/A	unknown
Illinois	No Provisions						
Indiana	No Provisions						
Iowa	No Provisions						
Kansas	Review committee limits on recommendations for certification to those who are close to meeting full certification standards. No alternate route exists.						
Kentucky	unknown	yes	* Only for M.A. in teaching * For high school teachers seeking certification at middle school level * Internship & training program	unkn.	yes	no	8
Louisiana	unknown	yes	* Major in subject area * 2.5 GPA * Only for secondary certificate * Min. 12 sem. hrs. in English and any other course hrs. deemed necessary by school of ed. * Complete all coursework in subject * Min. 18 sem. hrs. in professional ed. * 9 sem. hrs. of student teaching * If already teaching, must complete internship programs and meet NTE state scores	yes	yes	no	unknown
Maine	unknown	yes	* Applicant meets academic reqmts. for particular endorsement being sought * Only certifies people in subjects in which shortage exists * Qualifying scores on NTE Core Battery * This certificate can only be renewed twice - for renewal one can substitute in-service training for coursework	yes/no	no	no	unknown
Maryland	1987	yes	* 6 hrs. coursework/yr. until certification reqmts. are met * 3.0 GPA * Each higher ed. institution develops its own alt. cert. program. It has to be sent to the state dept. for review	yes	no	no	unknown

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State	Begun	Bachelor's	Minimum Requirements	Back to Campus	Clinical Experience	Evaluated	No. of Partic.
Massachusetts Plan 1 (Apprentice Teacher Program)	unknown	yes	* Successfully complete major in approp. secondary field * Can be employed as a teacher for 2 yrs. & make a commitment to seek certification expeditiously * Must meet U.S. citizenship, health, sound moral char. reqmts. & pass any teacher tests	yes	no	no	unknown
Massachusetts Plan 2 (Certification Review Panel)	unknown	yes	* 5 yrs. full-time or equiv. part-time prof. exper. relevant to standards of certifcation * Bachelor's degree * Good health, sound moral char., Amer. citizenship, passing score on any req'd. test. as judged by review panel	no	no	no	unknown
Michigan	No Provisions						
Minnesota	No Provisions						
Mississippi	unknown	yes	* Score at or above 51st percentile (based on 1983 norms) on each part of NTE	no	no	no	unknown
Missouri Plan 1	1989	yes	* Candidate must prove employment by a school dist. prior to acceptance in alt. cert. program * 2.5 GPA (overall) & 2.5 GPA in subject area * Show completion of gen. ed. background at teacher ed. school * 5 yr. employment exper. using BS/BA degree * Participate in interview * Coursework * Assigned to classroom & more prof. ed. courses				
Missouri Plan 2	1989	yes	* For critical need subjects * 5 yrs. work exper. using BA/BS * Certification will identify type of assignment & will limit the cert. to that subject * Limit of 1,044 clock hrs. within 2 yrs. * One renewal	no	no	no	unknown
Montana	No Provisons						
Nebraska	unknown	yes	* Only for secondary level * Good for 1 yr./can be renewed twice * Only for career changers * Must complete pedagogy reqd. of teachers in regular ed. track within 3 yrs. * Request for alt. cert. must come from employing school district	yes	no	no	unknown
Nevada	No Provisions						

State	Begun	Bachelor's	Minimum Requirements	Back to Campus	Clinical Experience	Evaluated	No. of Partic.
New Hampshire Plan 1 (Title: Alternative 3)	1987	yes	* Proven competence in subject (written statement & 3-5 references) * Review of the Board of Examiners (based on materials presented, results of written exam, personal interview, or on-site observation) * Demonstrated competence in basic skills * Written recommendation from Bureau of Teacher Ed. & Prof. Standards (BTEPS)	no	no	yes (this program attracted most in general ed. and spec. ed)	unknown
New Hampshire Plan 2 (Title: Alternative 4)	unknown	yes	* Recommended for employment in the vocational specialties or as business administrators * Demonstrated competence in basic skills * Meet entry level reqmts. of BTEPS * Transcripts and resume * 2-yr. full-time experience * Ed. plan is developed for ea. candidate based on her/his strengths & weaknesses, & this plan must be successfully completed * For critical shortage areas only	no	no	yes (prog. was used most by spec. ed. & math teachers)	unknown
New Jersey	1985	yes	* Subject major in area one wishes to teach * Passage of state-administered test of subject matter * Must be offered teaching position before training begins * Successful completion of intensive year-long training prog. (clinical & formal inst., full-time teaching position & 200 hrs. formal instruction in topics essential in order to teach)	yes	yes	yes	* 1,500 (since '85) * 21% minorities * attrition is 4X lower than trad. method
New Mexico	1986	no	* Must be sponsored by local school board * Public or private school official submits a proposal outlining qualifications, structured support system that will be available, evaluation system & contributions candidate will make * School officials are responsible for supervision & eval. & report to state supt. on overall success of the prog. as well as the individual	no	no	no	unknown
New York	No Provisions						
North Carolina	1985	yes	* Minor deficiency or technical reqmt. (no shortage more than 6 sem. hrs.) & must be completed before the next fiscal yr. * Complete 2 wk. training course before teaching in a school * Satisfactory score on NTE or GRE * Meet remainder of reqmts.	yes	no	no	unknown

State	Begun	Bachelor's	Minimum Requirements	Back to Campus	Clinical Experience	Evaluated	No. of Partic.
North Dakota	unknown	yes	* Only for emergency need * During 2nd year, the district must show a certified person could not be hired	no	no	no	unknown
Ohio Plan 1	1991	yes	* 1 yr. certification only * Work experience * Passing score on state exam	no	no	not yet	not yet begun
Ohio Plan 2	1990	yes	* Can only be hired a max. of 6 hrs./wk. * Experience in area of instruction	no	no	by 12/31/92	unknown
Ohio Plan 3	1987	yes	* College/university has to request innovative teacher ed. prog. from state board of education * Approval is based on amt. of coursework, clinical exper. & assess. procedures	yes	yes	no	unknown
Oklahoma	No Provisions						
Oregon	unknown	no	* Candidate & school supt. have to convince Teacher Standards and Practices Commission that candidate has training exper. equiv. to rules of certification * Endorsements may be added by passing the NTE in lieu of classes	yes/no	no	no	unknown
Pennsylvania	1972	yes	* Candidates must be accepted into the teacher intern program in a college/univ. that will assess their progress * May need additional coursework * College/univ. issues a letter of candidacy to dept. of ed. * Holders of temp. certificate have 3 yrs. in which to meet all reqmts. of formal certification (Dept. of Ed. awarded a grant [1988-89] with which to recruit potential science & math teachers into the intern program)	yes	no	no	unknown
Puerto Rico	No Provisions						
Rhode Island	No Provisions						
South Carolina	unknown	yes	* BA/BS must be from college/univ. with an accredited teacher ed. program * For critical needs areas only * Passing score on specialty area * Complete 2 wk. preservice * Only renewable for 3 yrs. * First 2 yrs. evaluated on classroom performance	no	no (none initially needed, but assessments are req'd. to renew certificate)	no	unknown
South Dakota	No Provisions						

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State	Begun	Bachelor's	Minimum Requirements	Back to Campus	Clinical Experience	Evaluated	No. of Partic.
Tennessee	1990	yes	• Candidate must submit a request for review of transcripts to state dept. of ed. • 2.5 GPA • Passing scores on preprofessional skills test & other entry requirements • Pass both sections of NTE • Once hired, teacher will be evaluated according to the state model for local evaluation	no	no	no	unknown
Texas	1984	yes	• For critical need areas • 2.5 GPA overall & in area of specialty • Demonstrate competency in basic skills (take state-mandated basic skills test) • 3 sem. hrs. of reading must be completed no later than 1st semester as an intern • 6-12 additional sem. hrs. to be completed by end of internship (depends on subject area) • Complete specified number of student contact hrs. before accepted as intern • 1 yr. internship successfully completed	yes	yes	no	unknown
Utah	No Provisions						
Vermont	1989	yes	• State board for professional educators evaluates candidates based on competence, preparation & experience in subject area	no	no	no	unknown
Virginia	unknown	yes	• For secondary teachers only • 2-yr. non-renewable • Complete 9 sem. hrs. (inc. organization/preparation; evaluation of student performance; recog. of indiv. differences - gifted and handicapped; school com. relations; cultural awareness; management; educ. policies & procedures) • After 2 yr. period, candidate may be issued a 5 yr. renewable cert. if submits scores on test given by SBE, completes supervised student teaching and completes general & prof. educ. reqmts.	yes	no for 2 yr. (not, but certi yr. for 5 icate) certi	no	unknown
Washington	No Provisions						
West Virginia	unknown - dept. of educ. has developed agreements with retirees from business and industry in math and science fields. No other info. is provided.						
Wisconsin	No Provisions						
Wyoming	1987	yes	• Used only when certified teacher has been actively sought and not found (employing district must show this) • extensive training in subject area • 1 yr. non-renewable	no	no	no	none on record

Summary Chart of
Alternative Routes
for
Teacher Certification

States With No Provisions	State	Special Provisions	Back to Campus	Clinical Experience	Evaluated	No. of Participants
Alaska Delaware Illinois Indiana Iowa Kansas Michigan Minnesota Montana Nevada New York Oklahoma Rhode Island South Dakota Utah Washington Wisconsin West Virginia	Alabama		yes	unknown	yes	unknown
	Arizona		yes	yes	no	unknown
	Arkansas	+	no	yes	no	150 (in 1988)
	California Plan 1		yes	yes	no	unknown
	California Plan 2	• *	yes	no	no	unknown
	Colorado	+	no	yes	yes	30-50/year
	Connecticut		yes	yes	no	unknown
	Florida	+	no	yes	yes	unknown
	Georgia Plan 1	*	yes	yes	no	unknown
(18 TOTAL)	Georgia Plan 2		yes	yes	no	unknown
	Georgia Plan 3		yes	yes	no	unknown
	Hawaii	*	yes	yes	no	unknown

* Emergency permit for shortage areas only
• Back to campus with no student teaching experience
\+ Clinical (student teaching) experience with no additional coursework

State	Specia ns Provis	Back to Campus	Clinical Experience	Evaluated	No. of Participants
Idaho (in progress)		yes	yes	N/A	unknown
Kentucky	unkn wn	yes	no	8	
Louisiana		unknown	yes	no	unknown
Maine	*	yes/no	no	no	unknown
Maryland	•	yes	no	no	unknown
Massachusetts Plan 1	•	yes	no	no	unknown
Massachusetts Plan 2		no	no	no	unknown
Mississippi		no	no	no	unknown
Missouri Plan 1		yes	yes	no	unknown
Misssouri Plan 2	*	no	no	no	unknown
Nebraska	•	yes	no	no	unknown
New Hampshire Plan 1		no	no	yes	unknown
New Hampshire Plan 2	*	no	no	yes	unknown
New Jersey		no	no	yes	unknown
New Mexico		no	no	no	unknown

ge areas only
ent teaching experience
perience with no additional coursework

* Emergency permit for short
• Back to campus with no stu
+ Clinical (student teaching)

State	Special Provisions	Back to Campus	Clinical Experience	Evaluated	No. of Participants
North Carolina	•	yes	no	no	unknown
North Dakota	*	no	no	no	unknown
Ohio Plan 1		no	no	to begin in 1991	
Ohio Plan 2		no	no	no	unknown
Ohio Plan 3		yes	yes	no	unknown
Oregon		yes/no	no	no	unknown
Pennsylvania	•	yes	no	no	unknown
South Carolina	*	no	no	no	unknown
Tennessee		no	no	no	unknown
Texas	*	yes	yes	no	unknown
Vermont		no	no	no	unknown
Virginia	•	yes	no	no	unknown
Wyoming	*	no	no	no	no one on record has requested this provision

* Emergency permit for shortage areas only
• Back to campus with no student teaching experience
+ Clinical (student teaching) experience with no added coursework

SUMMARY OF STATE DATA	Number of States Requiring
Emergency permit for shortage areas	10
Back to campus with no student teaching experience	7
Clinical (student teaching) experience (no additional coursework)	3
Evaluated	5
Participants	unknown in most states
Back to campus	21 (includes 2 yes/no)
Clinical experience	16